



For a national focus, how about a bowlathon?

One of my great joys is talking with MDA coordinators across the country and hearing about their work fund-raising for MDA. They are a dedicated bunch of folks who give of themselves. Their heart for the kids and adults and our members' help is astounding.

For some years now, some have suggested that NALC hold a national event to focus our efforts on one day as an additional fund-raising opportunity for our branches. Well, now the time has come to attempt to accomplish this goal. On November 1, we are asking every branch across this great land to hold a bowlathon to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

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What is required to prepare for this event? Remember that this is an additional one and should not take the place of your branch's other efforts. Select an individual to plan for the bowlathon if you don't have an MDA coordinator. Begin to advertise the event after you secure the location and follow the planning guide in the "Deliver the Cure" handbook. If you don't have a copy of the handbook, call NALC Headquarters to ask for a copy. Contact your local MDA representative if you need help in the planning. Your NBA can hook you up with these people as well.

NALC is also kicking in to the effort by providing prizes for the MDA category winners. We will use the same category breakdowns as we do for the national telethon participation. For each branch that wins their category by raising the most money at this event, NALC will award a laptop computer loaded with all NALC programs for the branch's use.

In addition, there will be two winners in each MDA category for high scores in the three-game series to both the handicapped and actual scores. Those high scorers will receive a new bowling ball and shoes. We will mail a form to all branches in the first week of July so that they may return the information to NALC Headquarters to award prizes. We will also provide a sheet so that all know the handicaps to use for bowlers and non-bowlers alike.

If you have a large branch, we encourage you to have multiple bowlathons geographically positioned in your branch to maximize the amount of money you can raise. MDA will supply posters and other support for this effort.

If this one-day event works, we plan on having different events at other times of the year. Perhaps we could have a nationwide golf or Texas hold-'em tournament. I know that we are looking at many ways to increase our contribution to MDA.

The national telethon is just around the corner! We have sent the letters to each branch that won

their MDA category for the MDA Telethon in Las Vegas over the Labor Day weekend. Be sure to return the information to NALC Headquarters as soon as possible so that we can arrange for our appearances when we represent our membership.

As most of you know, letter carriers appear with Jerry Lewis to be recognized for all we do for MDA. This has been going on since the beginning of the telethon and is one of the ways MDA thanks us for our work.

I know 2009 will be a successful year for us, so keep up the good work for these kids and adults.

Clarifications to the 2008 MDA Honor Roll published in June: Brooklyn, New York Branch 41 raised \$53,260 and Auxiliary 2003 (Branch 41) raised \$7,000. The New Jersey State Association raised \$3,030 and the NALC Auxiliary raised 2,828. ☒